

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 13-23 and 38 are in the case.

I. ELECTION/RESTRICTIONS

The election of Group I is hereby affirmed. Claims 24-35 have been cancelled without prejudice to the possibility of filing a separate divisional application to that subject matter.

II. SPECIFICATION

An abstract on a separate sheet has been requested. That is attached to the present response. In addition, customary headings have been inserted, including a brief description of the drawings. No new matter is entered.

III. THE ANTICIPATION REJECTION

Claims 13-21, 23 and 38-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,225,129 to van den Berg. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

The invention as claimed is directed to a process for producing a biodegradable fibre-reinforced shaped composite comprising providing a shaped preform of reinforcing fibres in a mold or tool, introducing into the tool or mould containing the preform a composition comprising, oligomers and partially or substantially polymerising the composition to form a polymer in the mold or tool.

van den Berg describes production of polymer to products using reaction injection molding in which monomers and the catalysts are injected into a mold, and the monomers are polymerized *in situ* (see the Abstract in column 1, lines 55-65). In contrast, in the process as now claimed, claim 13 has been amended to delete reference (without prejudice) to monomers, co-monomers and polymer matrix resins so that the composition introduced into the tool or mold containing the preform comprises oligomers. The claim amendments are supported by the originally filed application at page 9, lines 1 and 2 and at page 10, lines 1-4. No new matter is entered.

van den Berg does not disclose or suggest the use of oligomers in this process. It is believed therefore that the claims in the present application are novel over van den Berg. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding anticipation rejection are accordingly respectfully requested.

IV. THE ANTICIPATION/OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by van den Berg, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over van den Berg and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,655,777 to Dunn et al. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 22 is dependent on claim 13 and incorporates all of the features of claim 13 which are novel over van den Berg for the above-discussed reasons. Withdrawal of the anticipation aspect of this rejection is accordingly respectfully requested. With regard to obviousness, one of ordinary skill would not have been motivated to arrive at the subject matter of claim 22 based on the combined disclosures of van den Berg and

Dunn et al. Absent any such motivation, it is clear that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been generated in this case. Withdrawal of the outstanding obviousness rejection over the combined disclosures of van den Berg and Dunn et al are accordingly respectfully requested.

V. THE OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION

Claims 36 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over van den Berg in view of U.S. Patent 4,436,684 to White. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

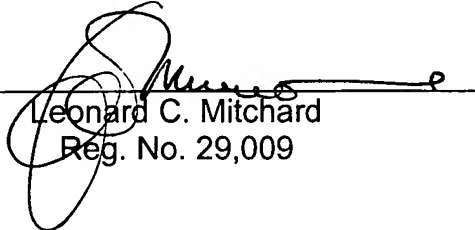
Claims 36 and 37 have been cancelled without prejudice, thereby rendering the outstanding obviousness rejection of those claims moot. Withdrawal of the outstanding obviousness rejection is accordingly respectfully requested.

Favorable action on this application is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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